

most advanced firefighting technologies.

Containerized aerial firefighting systems provide ground crews with dependable cover from the air by providing a rapid surge of retardant to attack these fires from multiple points of contact.

These fires can spread and expand at alarming rates, making rapid and aggressive containment strategies absolutely critical.

We must provide firefighters with the tools and resources to do their courageous work effectively and safely.

Billions of dollars are spent each year on recovering and restoring the environment and helping to rebuild communities after wildfires.

By investing in technology to increase our capacity to fight fires, we can reduce the recovery spending and preserve California's renowned parkland and countless families' homes and irreplaceable belongings.

As California faces several devastating wildfires burning through our communities and beloved forestland, I ask my colleagues and the U.S. Forest Service to consider investment in containerized aerial firefighting systems and other technologies and resources.

We have a responsibility to protect our communities, our environment, and the firefighters who run toward danger and sacrifice their safety for the safety of others.

To do so, we must equip these brave men and women with the tools they need.

Again, I ask the Forest Service and my colleagues to examine the latest aerial firefighting capabilities as well as additional resources to protect our state and communities.

THOUGHTS AND TAKEAWAYS ON SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, this body just spent several weeks considering a massive spending bill proposed by the Democrats. In my case, as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, we went through a 4-day markup considering the bill and debating the bill, and I want to just share some of my thoughts and takeaways.

The number one takeaway is that I just cannot comprehend how my Democrat colleagues on this bill are thinking. In fact, I hope the American people are paying attention because I have never seen such divergent views about how to create prosperity for all Americans. I have never seen such differing opinions about how to do it.

Now, I will give this to the Democrats: I believe they do want to see the American people prosper. They want to help people. I know we as Republicans want to do that, and I hope they grant us that same courtesy of believing that. But this administration has al-

ready spent trillions of dollars in the past 6 months, trillions of dollars, and now, with this bill, they want to spend another \$3½ trillion.

Democrats literally believe that Big Government is the answer. They believe Big Government will solve these problems and will help Americans prosper.

At the same time, they are disincentivizing work and advancing policies that increase dependence on the Federal Government as if they don't even understand that those who are working and businesses creating jobs and prospering are the ones who are paying the taxes that will pay for these programs. I just don't get it.

Republicans have a far different answer. We believe in the American people. We believe in their creativity, their hard work, their ingenuity. We believe in achieving the American Dream. I have lived that American Dream.

I was born in an Old Order Amish family, number 10 of 12 children. My father was first a farmer and then a roofer, raising 12 children on that income. I was the first in my family to graduate from high school. I paid for my own education. My parents required me to attend a private Christian school.

I bought a small business when I was 17 years old, operating out of a spare bedroom in my parents' home, and lived the American Dream. Over 25 years, I grew, with other family members, that company to be a leader in the type of construction we were doing, creating jobs for hundreds of Americans, family-sustaining jobs.

There are stories like that all across this body, all across the district that I represent, all across the country. It is what we call the American Dream, the idea that every generation can do better than their parents' generation and their grandparents' generation before them.

I think we have a choice in this body, and I think the choice is clear. Will we allow the government to dictate every facet of American life, or will we renew our trust in the American people and in their freedom? That is a question that will determine how our kids and our grandkids will be able to live and whether they have the same opportunities that we had.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, whose side I am on. I am on the side of the American people. We have already seen the damage done as a result of these policies that the Democrats have implemented.

We are seeing inflation where the American people are paying more for goods, and their paycheck is buying less than it did before. It is only going to get worse if we continue going down this path. These programs can only be paid for with more debt, printing money, or raising taxes on hard-working Americans. It doesn't work.

□ 1115

Tell me a time in history when it has worked, when a country has overdelivered, overspent, and overpromised.

Mr. Speaker, we have a choice in this body. Every American's desire to achieve greatness is what has made our country the envy of the world.

Let's reject these policies and let's put us on a path to allowing every American the chance to achieve their own American Dream.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to section 513, 529, and 529A of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Section 513 would require our daughters to register for Selective Service, which is the database behind the military draft.

I thank Congressman GREEN and Congressman DAVIDSON for allowing me the opportunity to cosponsor their amendments to strip this provision from the bill.

Unfortunately, the Rules Committee refused to make either amendment in order, meaning that Members are now not afforded the opportunity to vote their consciences on the issue of drafting our Nation's daughters.

Since our country's founding, women have played a vital role in many of the critical support functions in military forces. The choices these women made in raising their hands to volunteer, to wear the uniform, and to swear an oath to uphold the Constitution are commendable and should be honored. However, it is unconscionable to me that this body would enact a provision to force women into registering for Selective Service.

This would put women in a position where they could be called at random to report for duty before all registered males have been called in the extreme scenario of authorizing a draft during a national emergency.

First of all, adding women to Selective Service is unnecessary. Our Nation has been fortunate enough through volunteer enlistment to have a force that is battle-ready and capable of withstanding any threat posed by our adversaries. If that was not the case, we would not have had a completely voluntary military for the last 40 years. A draft has not been needed since the 1970s, and I am confident that if it ever did get to that point, we would have more than enough men to satisfy the need for increased combatants. And that is the purpose of the draft, to increase available combatants to replace combatants after casualty losses. Thus, this provision is nothing more than an attempt to search for a solution to a problem that would not exist.

In 2015, combat positions were open to women who could meet the physical requirements, but only a small number of women were able to meet those requirements because men and women are distinctly different and not the same physically.